LISTING OF CLAIMS

1-30. (Canceled).

31. (Currently Amended) A method for linking grammars into a hierarchy of operations, comprising the steps ~~operations~~ of:

establishing various grammars each grammar including various utterances and, for each utterance, the following associated attributes: (1) an indication of whether the utterance is explicitly chained to a further grammar, or (2) contextual information indicating a type of data implicitly specified by the utterance;

where each one of the various grammars further includes, for each utterance that is explicitly chained to a further grammar, a chained command attribute identifying the further grammar for activating responsive to a user issuing that utterance while said further grammar is activated for speech recognition;

where the various grammars include command grammars and information-type grammars, and:

utterances in the command grammars form commands to control a manner of presenting video programs;

utterances in the information-type grammars form keywords pertaining to content of video programs;

accepting a statement comprising a series of uninterrupted user utterances containing more than one user command for controlling a video program; ~~series of user utterances;~~ and

performing a series of operations by activating [[further]] a chained series of one or more grammars recognized from the statement, wherein for each grammar that contains a user utterance that is explicitly chained to a further grammar, activating the further grammar; and for each grammar that contains a user utterance having contextual information associated within, activating a further grammar based on the contextual information of a preceding grammar.

32. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 31, further comprising operations responsive to receiving an utterance in a given information-type grammar while said given grammar is activated for speech recognition, comprising:

      if said given grammar lacks ~~a link from the utterance~~ an indication that the utterance is explicitly chained to a further grammar, processing said utterance based on (1) application context of a user-driven system for presenting video programs and (2) type of data specified by the received utterance according to the given grammar.

33. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 31, the type of data indicated by the contextual information in information-type grammars is selected from ~~a list that includes:~~ among program name, genre, actor, director, writer, episode, date, popularity, quality rating, subject matter rating.

34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31, wherein the utterances comprise user defined preference settings.

35. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 34, wherein the user defined preference settings are selected from among a subset of program categories, a popularity requirement, a parental-warning type rating, and a quality requirement.

36. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31, further comprising:

      deducing predicted preferences from the various utterances, wherein the predicted preference settings are defined by processes selected from among a viewing pattern analysis, a user profile analysis, an analysis of user behavior relating to frequency of content requests by way of utterance.

37. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36, wherein the predicted preference settings are added to a user defined preference setting.

38 – 59 (Withdrawn).